

Claims

1. Apparatus for use to check potatoes or similar items, said apparatus comprising a feeding device (2) for advancing the potatoes in a plurality of rows, a conveying device (13) adapted to receive the rows of potatoes from the feeding device (2) and advancing them while maintaining the row structure, a camera (42, 43) with associated image processing means for recording and evaluating each individual potato on the conveying device (13), and a sorting device (31) controlled by the image processing means, said sorting device being adapted to sort the potatoes, characterized in that the conveying device (13) comprises a plurality of substantially horizontal rollers (14-24), the axes of rotation of said rollers extending parallel to the advance direction (12) of the potatoes, that the rollers (14-24) are rotatably mounted in a support frame (25) and connected with a first driving device (29) for rotating them, said rollers each independently being additionally displaceable in parallel forwards and backwards in a substantially straight line extending in a vertical plane, said plane comprising the axis of rotation of each roller, and inclining somewhat upwards, seen in the advance direction; and that the rollers (14-24) are connected with a second driving device (27) adapted to confer a reciprocating oscillating movement to each roller along said line.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the rollers (14-24) are each independently associated with second driving devices (27, 28).
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the rollers (14-24) are provided with a high-friction surface, such as longitudinal notches.